

S E C R E T

REPORT NO.
50X1

COUNTRY Poland 50X1

SUBJECT The Polish Navy

DATE DISTR. 21 Dec. 1953

NO. OF PAGES 8

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED B

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INF

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE

50X1

Prestige of the Polish Navy

1. As far as the prestige of the Polish Navy was concerned, it was generally assumed that the members of the Navy were on a par with members of the Air Force. They took great pride in being members of the Navy and generally looked down upon members of the Army. The civilians seemed to agree that the Navy was a higher or a more acceptable service than the Army. This idea was traditional in Poland, and it was believed that service in the Navy was more respectable and that members of the Navy worked harder and sometimes were in more danger than members of the Army. In the eyes of the Soviets that the Polish Navy was a branch of service that was neither better nor worse than the other services. The Navy has done nothing in the way of publicity to increase the interest of the people in the Navy.

Advantages and Disadvantages of the Navy as Compared with the Other Services

2. There was a prevailing attitude among the members of the Navy that the Navy man was more or less a specialist who had a definite basic education, whereas those who served in the Army were considered at a lower social level because of the lack of this background. It was considered an advantage to be with people who had had a good basic education plus the fact that people were allowed to specialize in a field, such as electricity, radio, or mechanics, which could later be used as a trade.

~~S E C R E T~~

S E C R E T

- 2 -

Qualities of a Good Sailor

3. In the eyes of the average sailor, who was not a Communist nor an insincere member of the Party, the requisites for a good sailor were considered to be intelligence and efficiency in his work. In the eyes of a sincere Party member, intelligence and efficiency were not considered necessary qualities of a good sailor. As long as a man was strongly Communist he was considered far superior to the intelligent, able seaman.

Recruitment of Enlisted Personnel

4. Some of the preliminary qualifications for membership in the Navy included the following:
- a. Minimum height of one meter 70 centimeters was required.
 - b. An individual would not be accepted if he weighed less than a specified amount. the weight requirement.
 - c. Good physical health was required in order to withstand the rigors of Naval service.
 - d. Educational requirements - There were some sections in the Navy - such as the guard company - that accepted recruits who had not finished elementary school, but these sections were very, very few in number. In general, the Navy preferred to have a man who had at least finished his elementary education and preferably, one who had already begun or finished middle school or the university. Those who had not finished elementary school were not sent directly to an inferior assignment but were given a chance of showing their ability in the final examinations at the end of recruit training. If their examinations were unsatisfactory these men were used in the guard companies, whose duties included standing watch before officer barracks, mess halls, etc.
5. There were three Committees which selected a recruit for service in either the Army, Navy, or Air Force. The three Committees, located in the Regional Induction Commission (RKU), were simply called the First, Second, and Third Committees of the Regional Induction Commission.
6. The First Committee merely registered the civilian and stated that the civilian was under direct command of the Regional Commission.
7. The Second Committee of the RKU dealt with physical examinations and with security checks and with background and educational checks.
8. The Third Committee of the RKU decided, with the aid of the First and Second Committees, in which branch of the service - Army, Navy, or Air - the recruit would serve.
9. The Second Committee conducted a complete physical examination with specialists, (such as eye, ear, nose, throat, heart, etc.), while the Third Committee conducted a quicker and more general physical examination of the recruit at the time of his call into service in order to determine if there had been any change in his physical condition.
10. Volunteers had to serve three years instead of the usual two years which inductees served, and it was assumed that a volunteer would eventually make the Navy his career. Anyone could volunteer

S E C R E T

50X1

S E C R E T

- 3 -

50X1 if he qualified. [redacted] family background had any influence on the acceptance of a recruit into Naval service. A good deal of Navy recruiting was done in the province of Poznan and from the Warsaw area, but [redacted] more recruiting was done there than in any other area.

50X1

Recruitment of Officers

- 50X1 11. [redacted] qualifications necessary for a civilian to be accepted for officer training. [redacted] only about 10% of the officers of the Polish Navy had served as enlisted men before being accepted for officer training.
12. The qualifications necessary for an enlisted man to be accepted into officer training school were as follows:
- a. The man had to have served at least three years in the Navy prior to his acceptance.
 - b. He had to have been a petty officer of any class.
 - c. The candidate had to be capable in his work.
 - d. He had to be politically reliable.
 - e. He had to intend making the Navy his career.

50X1

Special Naval Services (Submarine Service, Naval Air)

- 50X1 13. Men were accepted for service in the Naval Air Service at the time of recruitment. [redacted] qualifications or procedure for the selection of men in the Naval Air Service. [redacted] do know, however, that the Naval Air Force received its members through the Three Commissions of the Regional Induction Commission. Service in the Submarine School would begin at the end of recruit training. At the time [redacted], candidates were not being accepted for the Submarine School. [redacted] that a committee at the schools selected members for service in the Submarine School as well as members for service aboard cutters, destroyers, and other types of vessels.

50X1

50X1
50X1

Daily Routine

14. 0600: After Reveille, there followed 15 minutes of calisthenics; 20 minutes were devoted to dressing and washing and 10 - 15 minutes for making up beds and getting utensils together for breakfast. Only 20 minutes was allowed for breakfast which consisted of coffee, dry bread, and cereal. Each man received a daily ration of one gram of lard which was used in place of butter.

0730: After breakfast 15 minutes was devoted to political lectures on anti-American and pro-Soviet propaganda. American cowardice in Korea was stressed. This period was followed by 10 minutes of free time to prepare for the work of the day.

0800 - 1200: These hours were spent working. A lunch of soup, potatoes or cereal, fish (more often served than meat) and ersatz coffee was served.

1300 - 1700: These hours were spent working.

1700 - 1715: Fifteen minutes was allowed as free time, after which supper, consisting of soup, bread, and coffee, was served. A half hour of free time followed supper. After supper, one to two hours was devoted to Communist Party lectures. When there were no political lectures, meetings for members of the (ZMP)

S E C R E T

50X1

S E C R E T

- 4 -

Union of Polish Youth or Communist Party meetings for Communist Party members were held. The political lectures or meetings usually lasted until 2130.

2130 - 2200: Preparations for retiring were made at this time.

2200: Taps.

The food in most cases was not sufficient. Complaints about the bad food were often heard. Many sailors received food packages from home or money with which to buy food. Each man received eight cigarettes a day, which was the same ration the Air Force and Border Guard received. [redacted] the Army was not allowed this ration. [redacted] the Naval Air Force received better food than we did but enlisted men assigned to submarine duty received an additional "sea ration," which might have been more meat or sausage than we received. They also received higher pay but [redacted] how much more.

50X1
50X1

50X1

15. The routine at a Naval base was different from the above routine only in that there was more free time for breakfast and for making up beds and for getting ready for bed.

Watches

16. We were never obliged to stand watches on Naval bases. The guard company stood all the watches. Radio watches at Naval bases were stood day and night and lasted for six hours. The same procedure prevailed aboard ship except when the ship was in port. Radio watches aboard ship depended upon how many radio men there were aboard and the time was divided among them.

Medical Care

17. [redacted] the doctors were very skilled. But drugs, such as penicillin, streptomycin, and other modern drugs, were not available. There was also a great lack of Vitamin B tablets. There was a great shortage of gauze bandages. A paper type bandage was used as a substitute for cuts and minor injuries. [redacted] know the status of medical equipment but they did have a new chest X-ray machine.

50X1

Discipline

18. For minor offenses, such as arms that were not properly cleaned or being late for muster, a man received a warning for the first offense. If the offense occurred a second time the man was confined to the base for a month. The first time a man returned late from liberty he received a "light" arrest, which meant a jail sentence of three days with three meals served daily. If this happened a second time the man received what was known as the severe arrest, which meant that he was jailed for three days but was given only one meal a day and also had his hair shaved off. The third type of arrest was called the "15 day" arrest. [redacted] know of a case where a man wanted to sell one of his two uniforms. This was considered an offense warranting 15 days of confinement. After 15 days, he was returned to regular duty. No sentence ever exceeded 15 days. The legal officer was the deciding judge in one case where the man went to town without a pass. He was sentenced to 2½ years. There was another case of an enlisted man who struck an officer and was sentenced to five years in prison. The classification of these offenses appeared in the regulations and applied both on land and sea.

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

50X1

- 5 -

Mail

19. [redacted] was censored. There were no limitations or restrictions on the receipt or sending of mail. When packages arrived from home it was necessary for the individual to open them to show the contents to the political officer.

50X1

Promotions and Pay Scale

Monthly Earnings 1951 - Enlisted men in Naval Reserve. [redacted]

Seaman (Marynarz)	7½ zlotys
Senior Seaman (Starszy Marynarz)	12 zlotys
MAT (Petty Officer 3rd Class)	15 zlotys
Bosman (MAT) (P. O. 2d Class)	18 zlotys

A man who declared his intention of making the Navy his career received the following amounts for the same ratings:

Senior seaman	350 zlotys
P. O. 3rd Class	450 zlotys
P. O. 2d Class	550 zlotys
P. O. 1st Class	600 zlotys

The above scale represents the base pay earned by men holding these ratings. However, if a man was a specialist, he received 100 zlotys a month or more in addition to his base pay. In addition to his regular monthly earnings, a man with dependents received an allotment for each dependent. [redacted]

50X1

20. Promotions on the enlisted man's level were on the basis of time served. [redacted] it was every year or every other year. However, there have been cases where the T/O called for an officer and only a chief petty officer or a first class petty officer was available. In those few instances, the chief petty officer or first class petty officer was promoted to the rank of officer.
21. No living quarters were supplied for dependents of an officer or a petty officer. However, if there were some difficulty in finding a place to live, the dependents were aided in this respect.

Morale

22. At every installation there was an athletic officer who organized such sports as soccer, boxing, swimming, weight lifting, etc. These were for men who were better than average in these sports. Competitive games were played against Navy and Army teams. Two one-hour periods of physical training were held each week at different times in the week for non-team members.
23. Drinking was not too heavy among the men. They drank only on shore leave. They became drunk, but [redacted] There was no such thing as a liquor ration.
24. There were very few cases of men who were absent without official leave. Most of those who escaped went to the West because they felt that they would be granted asylum there. The most common reason for defection is the difficulty a patriot experiences in accepting the demands of the Communist Party. There comes a point when he can no longer tolerate these demands. At the outset the Party would respect a capable specialist but then would require him to become a member of the Party so as to be an exemplary and successful Party member. As a Party member,

50X1

S E C R E T

50X1

S E C R E T
- 6 -

further demands were thrust upon the man, such as influencing the other men to become Party members or to accept the Party doctrine. It seems to me, as in my own case, that in order to be sincere with oneself, one had no alternative but to try to escape.

25.

[redacted] were allowed a liberty each Saturday or Sunday (not both days) from 1800 until 2200 hours in the evening. [redacted] at least twice a week in Ustka /N 54-35, E 16-51/ and Niechorze /N 54-06, E 15-047. Our usual contact with civilians was in a bar or in a movie. The Warsaw radio station was tuned in at all times in restaurants. If one wanted to listen to Western broadcasts he would have to know a family who had a radio. Some of the men did know families whom they could contact and with whom they could listen to foreign broadcasts. Newspapers, books and magazines could be purchased in town and they were Communist controlled and Communist edited. [redacted] in reading a paper entitled Express Poznan which was published in Poznan. It contained foreign news as well as local news, whereas the other Party papers dealt with norms, production, and the progress of the Party in industry.

26.

[redacted] any antagonism felt towards the Jews. [redacted] never met any personally. Three Greeks served on the ship on [redacted]. The Greeks - and a Chinese who served on this ship - were considered more reliable than the Polish sailors in the eyes of the Party because they did not try to escape when they had the opportunity - as the Poles did.

27.

When a new man came aboard a naval base or ship there seemed to be no hesitancy on his part to make friends with the other men on board. The new man seemed first to orient himself to the situation. He seemed to be able to pick out people that he could trust and be friends with but this orientation seemed to last only a short time. He seemed to find out which were the good and bad officers. The arrival of a lone individual at a Naval base was rare. Most of the men were with a group of perhaps 10 individuals that they had known since recruit training days, where most of the friendships were developed. Friendships among the men were not encouraged because it was believed that friendships led to resistance groups. [redacted] vities for every spare moment were planned for the political officer or the executive officer for this reason.

28.

It cannot be said that an enlisted man would take pride in his work or in the maintenance of any equipment that might be assigned to him. The radio apparatus that [redacted] Kolobrzeg /N 54-11, E 15-357 was of a Soviet make and in my opinion was willingly discarded by the USSR because it was old, and sold for a high price to Poland, although the USSR had said that all Soviet equipment was given free of charge to Poland. This also applied to arms; the barrels were dirty and rusted. In circumstances such as these, [redacted] know of others - did just enough work to escape any sort of punishment for lack of cooperation. We could not however, be too careless or show any noticeable lack of care for this equipment for fear of jail sentences.

29.

[redacted] among the men as to the lack of seaworthiness of a naval vessel because Navy ships only sailed close to shore and not on the high seas. However, in the Merchant Marine there were several cases where the sailors refused to serve - but were forced to serve - aboard a ship that they considered not seaworthy. For example, there was a tanker that

S E C R E T

S E C R E T

- 7 -

everyone knew was built for passage only on inland waterways. This ship was assigned for duty in the North Sea and I know that men had refused to serve aboard the ship but were forced to do so. The Merchant Marine frequently seemed to use vessels that were built for inland duty. For this reason there always seemed to be rumors of seamen who were afraid to serve on these ships and who many times feigned illness in order not to be sent aboard them.

30. Of all the naval bases [] cannot say that [] seen any small or large organization among the members for the purpose of resisting Communist control.

50X1

31. No rumors were circulated in the Navy because the general rule seemed to be that the more a person said the more was carried to the political officer by an unknown source. For their own safety, the men thought it wiser not to begin or to listen to any rumors.

Communist Party Membership Among Naval Personnel

32. [] of the officers and men in the Polish Navy were anti-Party. In 1949, when [] the BLYSKAWICA, the only Soviet aboard was the political officer. In 1950 the Naval Staff was reorganized and every Naval officer serving there was a Soviet. It would seem that in 1949 and 1950 more and more Soviet Naval personnel were being introduced into higher positions. At the School of Sea Specialists in Ustka, [] a Soviet lieutenant commander was brought in as executive officer of the School. He was executive officer to Commander LESZCZYNSKI. As executive officer to the Commander of the School, it was assumed that he controlled the duties of LESZCZYNSKI - on the basis that he was a Soviet, and was there only to oversee the Polish Commander's work.

50X1

33. In 1950 in Warsaw, after the trial of General TATAR of the General Staff in the Ministry of National Defense, there seemed to be a general change in Naval commands from Polish to Russian. General MOSAR and Polish Vice Minister of National Defense SPYCHALSKI were removed from the Ministry. From some conversations with officers, as well as the general feeling among the men, it would seem that they wholeheartedly despised the fact that Soviet officers were in command. It was taken as an insult since it was known that there were many able Poles who could have been placed in these positions. The ill feeling was further intensified by the thought that foreigners (Soviets) were controlling the command of the Polish Navy.

34. The political officer was looked upon as a spineless person who wanted to be a Naval officer with a minimum of effort. He was incapable of any other duty except to repeat what he might have read on Communist ideology, and because of his constant haranguing on political matters, the men did a minimum of work - just enough to get by. They seemed to have lost their initiative.

Relationships Between Officers and Men

35. The relationship between officers and men was somewhat tense. The men obeyed orders only through fear of jail sentences imposed on acts of disobedience. The men did not like their status aboard ship, because any free time that they might have had was taken up by political lectures and Communist indoctrination classes given by the political officer. There were individual cases where officers were incapable of fulfilling their duties, and there were cases where it was obvious that an enlisted man was more capable in his specialty than the assigned officer. These individual cases added to the discontent of the enlisted

S E C R E T

S E C R E T
- 8 -

men. However, there was a noticeably higher respect for a pre-World War II Polish Naval officer because the men seemed to realize that he became an officer strictly on his own merits rather than on the merits of his relationship to the Party. The men suspected a new Naval officer of being incapable because they felt that his officer standing was given him through the influence of the Communist Party.

Relationships Between Chief Petty Officers and Men

36. The relationship between chief petty officers and enlisted men was on a much more sincere, respectful, and friendly basis than that which existed between officers and enlisted men. The reason was that the enlisted men considered the chief petty officers as men who knew their jobs through long service in the Navy, because they were usually career men even though they might be Party members. CPO was considered a rating given on the basis of merit rather than on the basis of Party influence. The pre-World War II petty officers were not installed by the Party. However, today the petty officer is somewhat regarded in the same way as the officer. He has to prove himself to the men.
37. Among the enlisted men themselves, however, there seemed to be a great esprit de corps. There was good cooperation between staff and line personnel aboard ship and there were no bad feelings or differences between members of one vessel and another or between a specialized Naval service, such as the Submarine Service and the Naval Air Force. There seemed to be only a general dislike for any member of the Army. Fights between members of the Navy and the Army were common.
38. There was a disagreeable relationship between members of the Naval guard companies and other members of the Navy. This relationship was similar to that between the Army and the Navy, because members of the guard companies considered themselves land units in Naval uniform fulfilling an Army function.

S E C R E T